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The China Mail.

ESTABLISHED 1845

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ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE DINNER.

The first annual dinner of the St. Joseph's College Association, Shanghai, took place on the 27th ult. at the Palace Hotel, Shanghai, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Harry O. White, the President of the Association. There was a large number of members and guests present. Both the banqueting hall and the table were most artistically decorated with flowers and the colours of the College, red, green and white. The patron saint of the Association occupied a most prominent position and the picture was draped with the colours of the College. After the repast, which was a most excellent one, the following toasts were proposed. "Our Rulers" and "The St. Joseph's College and the Christian Brothers" by the Chairman; "Our Guests" by Mr. C. E. L. Ozorio, replied to by Mr. A. M. Diniz and Dr. Wu Ting-fang; "The Hongkong Association" by Mr. J. J. de Souza, replied to by Mr. C. M. Marques who read the telegram sent by Hongkong "Saint Josephians heartily greet Collegues annual reunion cordially wish success prosperity."

"Should auld acquaintance," was sung after this toast. During dinner a musical programme was gone through.—N.C. Daily News.

HOW TO LECTURE.

Cavalry Officer's Advice To Beginners.

That anybody, no matter how meagre his natural gift of oratory, may become an interesting speaker is the impression conveyed by Lieut-Colonel J. D. F. Donegan, R.A.M.C., in an article entitled Hints on How to Lecture on Any Subject, in the current number of the Cavalry Journal. He admits that his remarks are intended for the ordinary officer who lectures to his men, but it is possible that his methods might help would-be lecturers outside the army.

To capture the attention of his hearers is the aim of every speaker, and on this point the writer offers much good advice. Of course, a sound knowledge of the King's English and a reasonable grasp of the subject under discussion are essential, but "one does not really require to be the greatest living expert on the point." The great thing is to lead the audience to think you know more about your subject than you really do, silencing hecklers who endeavour to put you in an awkward position by asking inconvenient questions by a little gentle raillery, such as "You have so many points to raise you are like a porcupine."

Novel and original forms of illustration are valuable. They stimulate interest and fix the importance of particular points. The speaker who coldly states a fact is not half so likely to make an impression as another who uses such a sentence as "N. poison said that the man who neglected to do so and so deserved to have his feet chopped into cats' meat before his eyes." Clear and trenchant speech is also advocated. "A rotten, unhealthy hole," for instance, is more illuminating than "the climatic influences were found to be unpropitious," and "mean as a rat" has obvious advantages over such a phrase as "exceedingly parsimonious." Another suggestion is that the lecturer should try to make his subject as easy as possible and "palatable, not served easy as raw meat, as it were, but after fact." Another should be "prick" with his points, like a porcupine, but "rub them well in like an embrocation."

As to jocular remarks, the speaker is advised to use them like a cook uses condiments, sparingly. "To start a lecture on a serious subject with a joke would be like starting a dinner party with a hors d'œuvre of red pepper on toast." Finally every speaker should begin his training young. "If he starts in early life to speak and lecture clearly, even on such subjects as removal of barrack refuse" he will not in later years, in an after dinner speech, pull the table cloth off from nervousness.

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